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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **AOC Legislative Director to Depart; Acting Director to Be Appointed**

### ***Chief Justice, AOC Director Laud Kathleen Howard's Leadership and Contributions to Judicial Branch***

San Francisco—William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the California Courts, today announced that Kathleen “Kate” Howard, director of the Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA) of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), will leave her position to pursue new professional opportunities.

“Kate Howard has performed an outstanding job as director of the Judicial Council’s legislative advocacy program for the California courts,” said Chief Justice Ronald M. George, chair of the Judicial Council. “Due to Kate’s exceptional abilities and leadership as director of the Office of Governmental Affairs, the Judicial Council has effectively communicated the courts’ needs and secured urgently-needed support for the judicial branch. In all of her contributions to the courts, Kate has demonstrated enthusiasm, determination, personal integrity, and a commitment to excellence. She will be greatly missed.”

Ms. Howard will leave the AOC in early October 2007, after the end of the legislative session and after the Governor has taken action on judicial branch legislation.

“The entire judicial branch has benefited from Kate’s professional demeanor, her optimistic attitude, her superb organizational and interpersonal skills, and, most importantly her energetic, courageous, and principled leadership,” said Mr. Vickrey. “We know she will succeed and make meaningful contributions in whatever career she chooses. We hope the future will offer opportunities for Kate to be involved with the judicial branch.”

Mr. Vickrey continued, “During the 17 years that Kate has been at the AOC, I have appreciated her many talents and have respected her

(over)

leadership abilities. As director of OGA, she has assembled a first-rate team of advocates who represent the judicial branch effectively and with professionalism and great success.”

Ms. Howard joined the AOC in 1990 and served first in the legal division (now known as the Office of the General Counsel), then in the Finance Division. Since 1993 she has been an important part of the Office of Governmental Affairs. She was appointed the director of OGA in October 2004 and for the last 3 years has been a leader in the Judicial Council’s legislative successes.

Ms. Donna Hershkowitz, Assistant Director of OGA, will serve as the Acting Director during the recruitment process.

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*The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.*